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Shop-Girl

Wild shop-girl, with yellow rose-buds
 Jigging above your ears,
 Grief stands silently within you
 And sometimes reaches out his arms
 To catch your shouts just after they begin.
 You look at him a second, uncertainly,
 Then almost kill him with another shout . . .
 And the yellow rose-buds jig gracefully.



Transfiguration

Her arms, springing out above her head,
 Are like young branches trembling in the wind,
 And her hands stiffen out in worship.
 Her eyes are flames, bent, just before leaping up,
 And her lips arch away from each other.
 You wait to hear her cry out, thin-blown and straight . . .
 She sweeps up the buttons and thread upon her table,
 And with the broken face of an angered Madonna
 Drags herself away.

Maxwell Bodenheim.